

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE: RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEXTS

REF: GENEVA 7166

1. IN ADDITION TO APPROVAL PROBLEMS NOTED REFTTEL, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE OF GROWING PROBLEM OF DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN DIFFERENT LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF CSCE TEXTS. THIS PROBLEM IS PARTICULARLY PRONOUNCED WITH REGARD TO RUSSIAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS, AND WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT WITH LISTS OF DISCREPANCIES WE HAVE NOTED BETWEEN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN VERSIONS OF TEXTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVISIONALLY REGISTERED THUS FAR (GENEVA AIRGRAM NUMBERS, 171, 177, 184, 335, 336, AND 337). WHILE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THESE DISCREPANCIES RESULT FROM TECHNICAL ERRORS IN TRANSLATION

OR SLIGHT NUANCES OF INTERPRETATION, SOME OF THEM COVER SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES.

2. OTHER NATO DELEGATIONS HAVE ALSO NOTED THIS PROBLEM, AND SINCE EARLY NOVEMBER AN INFORMAL GROUP OF NATO RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE EXPERTS HAVE BEEN EXAMINING REGISTERED TEXTS, WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING AN AGREED LIST OF
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DISCREPANCIES BEFORE CHRISTMAS RECESS. WHEN LIST IS COMPLETE WE EXPECT NATO CAUCUS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE

COURSES OF ACTION.

3. CSCE TEXTS ARE NORMALLY NEGOTIATED IN ENGLISH OR FRENCH, BUT ARE PROVISIONALLY REGISTERED IN ALL SIX OFFICIAL CSCE LANGUAGES (ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, RUSSIAN, ITALIAN AND SPANISH). DELEGATIONS NORMALLY KEEP AN EYE ON ACCURACY OF TRANSLATIONS INTO THEIR OWN LANGUAGES. RUSSIAN LANGUAGE SECTION OF CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT IS PROVIDED LARGELY BY SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND THUS RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS ARE OFTEN SHADED TO BE MORE FAVORABLE TO SOVIET POSITIONS. SINCE ORIGINAL NEGOTIATING LANGUAGE IS MARKED ON ALL REGISTERED TEXTS, DISCREPANCIES RESULTING FROM TRANSLATION ERRORS CAN BE CORRECTED RELATIVELY EASILY. HOWEVER, RESOLUTION OF DISCREPANCIES WHICH COVER SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE SUPPLEMENTARY NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS.

4. WE PLAN TO FOLLOW THIS QUESTION CLOSELY, AND TO WORK WITH OUR ALLIES TO RESOLVE AS MANY DISCREPANCIES AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT REOPENING SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS. SHOULD DISCUSSION OF ANY OF THESE DISCREPANCIES REOPEN MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE OR SENSITIVE PROBLEMS, WE WILL SEEK DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE. DALE

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